

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 AID-20 EB-11 OMB-01 COME-00

TRSE-00 STR-08 CIEP-02 SCI-06 EPA-04 CEQ-02 RSR-01

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R 171750Z JUL 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 522

INFO USMISSION USUN NY

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 3678

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UN, ECOSOC

SUBJ: 55TH ECOSOC-ECONOMIC COMMITTEE: REGIONAL

COOPERATION ITEM 9 (A) AND (B)

SUMMARY: ECONOMIC COMMITTEE CONTINUED GENERAL
DISCUSSION ON REPORTS OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC
COMMISSIONS AND UNESOB ON JULY 10 AND 11. HIGHLIGHTS
ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW. END SUMMARY

1. CANADA ANNOUNCED ITS DECISION TO SEEK FULL
MEMBERSHIP IN ECE AT CURRENT ECOSOC SESSION NOTING
THAT IT WAS ALREADY PARTICIPATING IN COMMISSION'S
WORK AT TECHNICAL LEVEL AND CITING VARIOUS REASONS
WHY FULL MEMBERSHIP NOW DESIRABLE, BOTH FOR CANADA
AND FOR ECE. DURING COURSE OF GENERAL DEBATE
VARIOUS DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING US, SPOKE IN SUPPORT
OF CANADIAN CANDIDACY.

2. TOKYO RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR EXAMINATION OF
ECAFE STRUCTURE AND PROGRAM WELCOMED BY A NUMBER
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OF SPEAKERS (JAPAN, NETHERLANDS, INDONESIA, PAKISTAN).

COMMISSION PRACTICE OF ARRIVING AT DECISIONS BY CONSENSUS ALSO SUPPORTED BY VARIOUS SPEAKERS. JAPAN ENVISAGED IMPORTANT ROLE FOR ECAFE IN HELPING PLAN LONG-TERM ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR DEVELOPMENT. FELT ECAFE WORK PROGRAM NEEDED BETTER DEFINITION OF PRIORITIES. NETHERLANDS REGRETTED PRECARIOUS FINANCIAL SITUATION OF ASIAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING AND/STATED THAT NETHERLANDS WOULD CONTINUE ITS SUPPORT AND WAS PREPARED TO INCREASE IT BY 60 PERCENT PROVIDED OTHER COUNTRIES EQUALLY PROVIDED THEIR SHARE. INDONESIA CALLED FOR CONTINUED ECAFE ATTENTION TO SUB-REGIONAL PROJECTS WHERE CLOSER INTERESTS AMONG COUNTRIES CONCERNED WOULD FACILITATE JOINT PROGRAMS E.G. IN THE COMMODITY FIELD. PRC REMARKED THAT RELATIONSHIPS IN ECAFE AREA NOW "MORE NORMAL" BUT THAT REGION STILL SUFFERS FROM BIG POWER INTERFERENCE AND THAT WHILE ONE BIG POWER TALKS ABOUT AN ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY SYSTEM IT CONTINUES TO INTERFERE IN THE AFFAIRS OF ASIAN PEOPLES WHO MUST COOPERATE TO DEFEND THEIR INTERESTS. A NUMBER OF SPEAKERS (E.G. PAKISTAN, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND) REFERRED TO THE DISAPPOINTING PERFORMANCE OF THE ECAFE REGION IN RESPECT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND URGED CONTINUED ATTENTION OF THE COMMISSION TO THIS PROBLEM. VARIOUS DELEGATIONS VOICED SUPPORT FOR ADMISSION TO ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TTPI AND GILBERT ISLANDS. MOST SPEAKERS JOINED IN THANKS AND GOOD WISHES TO U. NYUN ON HIS RETIREMENT.

3. A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS, SPEAKING TO THE REPORT OF ECE, WELCOMED THE MULTIPLICATION OF CONTACTS IN THE REGION AND THE PROSPECTS OPENED UP BY THE CESC FOR EXPANDED WORK OF THE COMMISSION, CALLING IT TO BE PREPARED TO ASSUME MORE RESPONSIBILITIES. RUMANIA TOOK FAMILIAR LINE THAT COOPERATION MUST BE BASED ON RESPECT FOR INDEPENDANCE, LEGAL EQUALITY AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. NOTED RUMANIAN INVITATION TO HOLD 29TH ECE SESSION IN BUCHAREST. NETHERLANDS AND FINLAND WELCOMED THE UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ECE AND UNEP UNDER WHICH ECE ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY

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FOR SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF THE REGION'S ENVIRONMENT PROBLEMS, THUS MAKING ECE UNEP'S REGIONAL ARM. YUGOSLAVIA URGED THE IMPORTANCE OF ECE KEEPING IN MIND THE INTERESTS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN CARRYING OUT ITS ACTIVITIES. PAKISTAN OBSERVED THAT THE ECE REPORT IN SOME INSTANCES SUGGESTED THAT SOME ECC COUNTRIES REGARD DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BASICALLY AS SUPPLIERS OF RAW MATERIALS.

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4. ON ECLA, SPEAKERS CONTINUED TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE QUITO APPRAISAL AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE TYPE OF CONTRIBUTION TO THE R & A PROCESS THAT OTHER REGIONS SHOULD EMULATE. THE NETHERLANDS SPECIFICALLY ENDORSED

THOSE PASSAGES OF THE QUITO APPRAISAL DEALING WITH MONETARY PROBLEMS AND TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. VENEZUELA CALLED FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN ECLA AND OTHER REGIONS IN ASSURING THE EXERCISE OF NATURAL SOVEREIGNTY BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE UTILIZATION OF THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES. BRAZIL SAID THAT LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES COULD DO WITHOUT POLITICALLY PREJUDICED ADVICE. WHILE SHE WELCOMED ENLIGHTENED CRITICISM, BRAZIL WAS NOT INTERESTED IN IMPORTING IDEOLOGICAL DOGMATISMS. BRAZIL'S APPROACH WOULD BE TO SUPPORT PROGMATIC APPROACHES TO REGIONALISM. CUBA FORESAW CONTINUING IMPORTANT ROLE FOR ECLA IN FURTHERING REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL INTEGRATION EVEN IF THERE EXISTED DIFFERENT SOCIO-ECONOMIC SYSTEMS IN THE ECLA AREA. THE QUITO APPRAISAL WAS CITED AS AN EXAMPLE OF SUCH DIFFERENT SYSTEMS GETTING

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TOGETHER ON R & A AND CUBA REJECTED THE RIGHT OF NON-REGIONAL ECLA MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH EXERCISES.

5. IN COMMENTING ON THE REPORT OF ECA THE NETHERLANDS SUGGESTED THAT ECA ASSIST ITS MEMBER COUNTRIES IN THEIR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ENLARGED EEC. EGYPT NOTED THAT THE ECA REPORT CONTAINED MANY EXAMPLES OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF IMPERIALISM, AGGRESSION AND OCCUPATION AND OF RACIST REGIMES. CALLED FOR MORE EMPHASIS BY ECA ON FIELD WORK IN CONTRAST TO ORGANIZING CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS. URGED GREATER INTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS IN AFRICA. ALGERIA UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF ECA HELPING AFRICAN COUNTRIES PREPARE FOR THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AND CALLED ATTENTION TO THE AFRICAN REQUEST TO UNDP FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THIS PURPOSE. ZAIRE ARGUED FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION TO PROBLEMS OF LAND-LOCKED COUNTRIES, CITING THE PARTICULAR CASE OF ZAMBIA. A NUMBER OF OTHER AFRICAN SPEAKERS ALSO CALLED FOR MORE ATTENTION TO ZAMBIA'S PROBLEMS BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

6. YEMEN, EGYPT AND LEBANON PRAISED THE WORK OF UNESOB WHICH HAD BEEN MOST HELPFUL TO THE COUNTRIES SERVICED BY THE OFFICE ALTHOUGH IT SUFFERED FROM LIMITED STAFF AND RESOURCES. EGYPT MADE SPECIAL MENTION OF UNESOB'S ASSISTANCE IN HELPING RES REPS EVALUATE THE DEVELOPMENT PLANS OF COUNTRIES IN THE GREION. YEMEN ARGUED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS ABSURD NOT TO GIVE UNESOB THE STATUS OF A REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSION. BY NOT DOING SO ECOSOC WAS DOING AN INJUSTICE TO THE PEOPLES OF THE REGION AND SHOULD ACT PROMPTLY TO ESTABLISH THE PROPOSED WEST ASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION. LEBANON ALSO EXPRESSED VIEW THAT SERVICES PROVIDED BY UNESOB DID NOT SUFFICIENTLY MEET THE NEEDS OF THE REGION. TEMPORARY POLITICAL PHENOMENA EXISTING IN REGION SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO PREJUDICE EXPLOITATIONS OF ITS ECONOMIC POTENTIAL WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF A MUCH NEEDED REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSION. (YEMEN AND LEBANESE STATEMENTS WERE MADE WHILE FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS, REPORTED SEPARATELY, UNCLASSIFIED

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WERE IN PROGRESS TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION OF THIS

MATTER IN THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE UNTIL THE FOLLOWING WEEK.)

7. BY WAY OF GENERAL OBSERVATIONS VARIOUS DELEGATIONS SPOKE OF (A) THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS IN RESPECT OF R AND A, WITH THE QUITO APPRAISAL EXERCISE HELD UP BY MANY AS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE APPROACH THAT SHOULD BE USED. IN THIS CONNECTION INDEA REGRETTED THAT THE R AND A REPORT PREPARED BY AN EXPERT GROUP FOR THE ECAFE REGION HAD NOT BEEN SUBJECT TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL DISCUSSION. (B) THE NEED FOR BETTER COORDINATION AND LIAISON BETWEEN UNDP AND THE COMMISSIONS, WITH A GREATER ROLE PLAYED BY THE LATTER IN THE COUNTRY PROGRAMMING PROCESS. (C) THE DESIRABILITY OF HAVING THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE COMMISSIONS INVOLVED IN THE FURTHER STUDY OF THE SYG OF THE REGIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE UN (D) THE IMPORTANCE OF INVOLVEMENT OF THE COMMISSION'S IN REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS.

8. THE GENERAL DISCUSSION ENDED WITH A BRIEF STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS (SLIPILA) ON THE IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN PLAYING THEIR FULL ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS IN THE VARIOUS REGIONS.

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